

Homogeneous flow field effect on the control of Maxwell materials

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Abstract

The controllability of viscoelastic fields is a fundamental concept that defines some essential capabilities and limitations of the resulting materials. In this paper, we study the controllability of different homogeneous flow fields of viscoelastic fluids governed by the upper convected Maxwell model. The approach is largely based on the nonlinear geometric control theory. Through the analysis of the control Lie algebra, we find the submanifolds in the state space on which the homogeneous flow fields are weakly controllable. Our approach can be generalized to more complicated systems.

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1. Introduction

The controllability of viscoelastic fluids has important applications in the design of desired materials. An important issue of controllability is the question whether it is possible to steer a system to a desirable state with a given set of control inputs.

In [5] the controllability of flows of linear viscoelastic fluids was investigated by Renardy using multi-mode Maxwell models. The state of the system is characterized by the velocities and the viscoelastic stresses; the control input is in the form of the body force. It was found that the system is uncontrollable, unless the initial conditions for the stresses satisfy a set of constraints. For the degenerate case of creeping flow where the density is zero in the equation of motion, there is no controllability unless the control input is distributed along the entire interval in the physical domain. In the presence of inertia, crucial difference occurs between the cases of one or more relaxation modes: For a single relaxation mode (i.e. a Maxwell fluid), exact controllability holds provided the time interval satisfies certain inequality; for multiple relaxation modes, exact controllability holds under modified regularity assumptions. Another piece of work by Renardy [6] was focused on the homogeneous shear flow of viscoelastic fluids with several different constitutive models. For those equations, the state of the system consists of viscoelastic stresses whereas the shear rate is regarded as a control input. For the upper convected Maxwell (UCM) model, it was revealed in [6] that the reachable set, i.e. the states in stress space which are accessible from a given initial condition, is specified by a positive definiteness inequality of the stress tensor. Very recently the result was extended to the control of nonhomogeneous shear flow of an upper convected Maxwell fluid [7] where the state of the system and the available control are the same as those in [5].

The goal of this paper is to extend the work in [6] to a variety of homogeneous flow fields on the control of viscoelastic fluids. Our work differs from [6] in several aspects. First, we include in this study the effect of different homogeneous flow fields in addition to the shear flow addressed in [6]. Secondly, due to its nonlinear nature, our approach is largely based on nonlinear geometric control theory, which is different from the analysis and tools used in [6] for the UCM model under shear flow. The third difference lies in the definition of controllability. Rather than the general concept of controllability, in this paper we adopt a local version of the concept, namely weak controllability. This definition has been widely used in nonlinear control theory as well as in engineering applications.

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In many real life applications of complicated nonlinear systems, engineers prefer to reach a distance target by scheduling a sequence of local movements for the reasons of model uncertainties, system perturbations, and sensor noise. From a theoretical viewpoint, Lie brackets of vector fields provide an efficient tool to prove weak controllability. We note that Lie brackets have been exploited in [6] for a nonlinear model and the Renardy model. But the systems addressed in this paper are different. Among the various types of flows addressed in this paper, the special case of shear flow was also addressed in [6]; and the results are consistent except that we address the concept of weak controllability, not the reachable set derived in [6]. However, for the case of extensional flow, we derive the constraints of the reachable set in Section 4.

Similar to [6], we mostly limit our study to the two-dimensional upper convected Maxwell fluid except for Section 5, in which we introduce some remarks and discussions on three-dimensional flows. However, similar analysis developed in this paper is applicable to higher dimensions (even though more advanced mathematical tools are needed) and other constitutive models.

We organize our paper as follows. First we give a brief discussion on the controllability of control systems. Then we introduce the upper convected Maxwell fluid. After that, we analyze the effect of various homogeneous flow fields on the controllability of Maxwell materials. More precisely, extensional flow, shear flow and general planar linear flow are considered where the submanifold of controllability is characterized for each case. Then we provide a brief discussion on 3D models. Finally, we conclude the paper with a summary of the main results.

2. The controllability of control systems

Consider a general nonlinear control system that is affine in control [4]:

$$\dot{x} = f(x) + \sum_{i=1}^m g_i(x)u_i, \quad (1)$$

where x is the state variable, $u_i \in \mathbb{R}$, $i = 1, \dots, m$, are the control variables. In general, the state variable takes value in a manifold of dimension n , denoted by M . An important concept for systems defined by (1) is its *controllability*, which characterizes the ability to maneuver the system from one state to other by proper choice of control. There exists a huge literature on the controllability of control systems. In this paper, we adopt the definition and follow the geometric approach from [2].

Let x_0 be a point in M , the manifold of state variables. A point x_1 in M is said to be reachable from x_0 if there exist piecewise continuous input functions, $u_i = \alpha_i(t)$, so that the trajectory, $x(t)$, of (1) with initial state x_0 reaches x_1 in finite time, i.e. $x_1 = x(T)$ for some $T > 0$. For nonlinear control systems, the global reachability is usually very difficult to prove. Instead, a practical solution is to study weak controllability.

Definition 1. A control system is said to be weakly controllable in an open subset $D \subseteq M$ if, for any $x_0 \in D$, there exists an open neighborhood U_0 of x_0 so that the set of points reachable from x_0 along trajectories inside U_0 contains at least an open subset of M .

If a system is weakly controllable, it implies that the locally reachable states form a “solid” region. More restrictive than weak controllability, the concept of controllability requires that any two points in M are reachable from each other. For linear, time invariant control systems, controllable and weakly controllable are equivalent. However, for nonlinear control systems like those studied in this paper, the determination of controllability requires the global geometric properties of the vector fields in control systems. The description of the set of points reachable from a given point is still an open problem for most control systems. On the other hand, weak controllability can be determined by using the dimension of the control Lie algebra and a distribution generated by the vector fields associated with the control system; nevertheless, weak controllability implies some important properties of a control system.

In (1), $f(x)$ and $g_i(x)$ are vector fields on the manifold M . Under the Lie bracket operation, $[f, g]$, the space of smooth vector fields on M forms a Lie algebra. This Lie algebra, the smallest subalgebra containing the vector fields f, g_1, \dots, g_m , is called the control Lie algebra, denoted by \mathcal{C} . At each point $x \in M$, the vectors in \mathcal{C} span a vector space. It is denoted by $\Delta_{\mathcal{C}}(x)$, i.e.:

$$\Delta_{\mathcal{C}}(x) = \text{span}\{X(x) | X \text{ is a vector field in } \mathcal{C}\}.$$

This mapping from M to the tangent bundle of M is called a distribution. The following is a useful sufficient condition on the weak controllability of a nonlinear control system.

Definition 2. A control system satisfies the controllability rank condition (CRC) on an open set $D \subset M$ if

$$\dim(\Delta_{\mathcal{C}}(x)) \equiv n \quad (2)$$

for all $x \in D$, where n is the dimension of the manifold M .

Theorem 1 (Isidori [2]). *A control system of the form (1) is weakly controllable on an open set D if it satisfies the controllability rank condition on D .*

3. The upper convected Maxwell (UCM) model

The upper convected Maxwell (UCM) model was proposed by J.C. Maxwell over a century ago. It has been widely used in polymer rheology for the description of a viscoelastic fluid under large deformations [1,3]. The UCM model gives a viscoelastic constitutive equation and can be written in the form:

$$\dot{\mathbf{T}} - (\nabla \mathbf{v})\mathbf{T} - \mathbf{T}(\nabla \mathbf{v})^T + \lambda \mathbf{T} = 2\mu \mathbf{D}, \quad (3)$$

where \mathbf{T} is the stress tensor, \mathbf{v} the velocity, $\nabla \mathbf{v}$ the velocity gradient tensor, λ the relaxation rate, μ the elastic modulus and \mathbf{D} is the rate-of-deformation tensor (i.e. the symmetric part of the velocity gradient).

We consider 2D homogeneous viscoelastic fluids and denote the stress tensor by

$$\mathbf{T} = \begin{bmatrix} T_{11} & T_{12} \\ T_{12} & T_{22} \end{bmatrix}, \quad (4)$$

where T_{11} is the first normal stress difference, T_{22} the second normal stress difference and T_{12} is the shear stress. Suppose the control input is denoted $\dot{\gamma}$ and it is which is closely related to the velocity. Then the general dynamic problem of (3) becomes

$$\dot{\mathbf{T}} = \mathbf{F}(\dot{\gamma}(t), \mathbf{T}), \quad \mathbf{T}(0) = \mathbf{T}_0, \quad \mathbf{T}(t_{\text{final}}) = \mathbf{T}_1, \quad (5)$$

where \mathbf{T}_0 and \mathbf{T}_1 are the given initial and final states, respectively. The state of the system (5) is characterized by viscoelastic stress \mathbf{T} with three components T_{11} , T_{22} and T_{12} .

4. Flow field effect on the controllability of Maxwell materials

Our primary purpose in this section is to study the effect of flow fields on the controllability of Maxwell materials for various types of flows. A weak controllability condition is presented for each case.

4.1. Extensional flow

For a fluid in a homogeneous extensional flow with rate $\dot{\gamma}(t)$, the velocity is

$$\mathbf{v} = \left(\dot{\gamma}(t) \frac{x}{2}, -\dot{\gamma}(t) \frac{y}{2} \right), \quad (6)$$

so the velocity gradient is

$$\nabla \mathbf{v} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\dot{\gamma}(t)}{2} & 0 \\ 0 & -\frac{\dot{\gamma}(t)}{2} \end{bmatrix}. \quad (7)$$

The rate-of-strain tensor becomes

$$\mathbf{D} = \frac{1}{2}[\nabla \mathbf{v} + (\nabla \mathbf{v})^T] = \frac{\dot{\gamma}(t)}{2} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix}. \quad (8)$$

In component form, (3) becomes

$$\dot{T}_{11} - (\dot{\gamma}(t) - \lambda)T_{11} = \mu\dot{\gamma}(t), \quad \dot{T}_{12} + \lambda T_{12} = 0, \quad \dot{T}_{22} + (\dot{\gamma}(t) + \lambda)T_{22} = -\mu\dot{\gamma}(t). \quad (9)$$

Note that T_{12} can be solved exactly:

$$T_{12} = T_{12}(0) \exp(-\lambda t). \quad (10)$$

Since the behavior of T_{12} is unaffected by the control, the UCM model (3) is not weakly controllable and hence does not satisfy the CRC anywhere. However, the state space has a stable and control invariant subspace $T_{12} = 0$. All trajectories of the system under any control input asymptotically approach this subspace. Therefore, the ultimate behavior of the control system is represented by the reduced system on the stable subspace:

$$\dot{T}_{11} - (\dot{\gamma}(t) - \lambda)T_{11} = \mu\dot{\gamma}(t), \quad \dot{T}_{22} + (\dot{\gamma}(t) + \lambda)T_{22} = -\mu\dot{\gamma}(t). \quad (11)$$

For mathematical convenience, we introduce

$$\vec{x} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} T_{11} \\ T_{22} \end{bmatrix}. \quad (12)$$

Then the system (11) can be rewritten as

$$\frac{d\vec{x}}{dt} = \vec{f}(\vec{x}) + \vec{g}(\vec{x})u, \quad (13)$$

where

$$u = \dot{\gamma}(t), \quad \vec{f}(\vec{x}) = \begin{bmatrix} -\lambda x_1 \\ -\lambda x_2 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \vec{g}(\vec{x}) = \begin{bmatrix} \mu + x_1 \\ -\mu - x_2 \end{bmatrix}. \quad (14)$$

The Lie bracket is

$$[\vec{f}, \vec{g}] = \nabla \vec{g} \cdot \vec{f} - \nabla \vec{f} \cdot \vec{g} = \begin{bmatrix} \lambda\mu \\ -\lambda\mu \end{bmatrix}. \quad (15)$$

Then we have

$$\det[\vec{g}, [\vec{f}, \vec{g}]] = \det \begin{bmatrix} \mu + x_1 & \lambda\mu \\ -\mu - x_2 & -\lambda, \mu \end{bmatrix} = \lambda\mu(x_2 - x_1). \quad (16)$$

It follows that the subsystem (11) of the UCM model under extensional flow satisfies the CRC and hence is weakly controllable on the set of all states where the two normal stress differences are not equal, i.e. $x_2 \neq x_1$ (or $T_{11} \neq T_{22}$).

For extensional flows, it is possible to characterize the set of reachable states for the subsystem defined by (11) which is equivalent to

$$\dot{T}_{11} = -(\lambda - \dot{\gamma}(t))T_{11} + \mu\dot{\gamma}(t), \quad \dot{T}_{22} = -(\lambda + \dot{\gamma}(t))T_{22} - \mu\dot{\gamma}(t). \quad (17)$$

Our approach below is inspired by Renardy's work [6].

Introducing new unknown functions:

$$x = T_{11} + \mu, \quad y = T_{22} + \mu,$$

the ODE system (17) becomes

$$\dot{x} = -(\lambda - \dot{\gamma}(t))x + \lambda\mu, \quad \dot{y} = -(\lambda + \dot{\gamma}(t))y + \lambda\mu. \quad (18)$$

If we rescale all the variables as follows:

$$\tilde{x} = \frac{x}{\mu}, \quad \tilde{y} = \frac{y}{\mu}, \quad \tilde{t} = \lambda t, \quad \tilde{\beta}(\tilde{t}) = \frac{\dot{\gamma}(t)}{\lambda},$$

then after dropping all tildes for simplicity, (18) has the form

$$\dot{x} = -(1 - \beta(t))x + 1, \quad \dot{y} = -(1 + \beta(t))y + 1. \quad (19)$$

We shall prove the following theorem.

Theorem 2. *Let $x(t)$ and $y(t)$ be solutions of the system (19) with initial conditions $x(0)$ and $y(0)$. If $x(0) > 0$, then $x(t) > 0$ for $t > 0$; similarly, if $y(0) > 0$, then $y(t) > 0$ for $t > 0$.*

Proof. We argue by contradiction. Suppose $x(\tau) = 0$ for some $\tau > 0$. Let

$$t_1 = \inf\{\tau | x(\tau) = 0, \tau > 0\}.$$

Since we assume that there exists $\tau > 0$ such that $x(\tau) = 0$, it follows that t_1 is well defined and is finite. Because $x(t)$ is a continuous function of t , we have $x(t_1) = 0$. Using the assumption $x(0) > 0$ and using the definition of t_1 , we get $x(t) > 0$ for $0 < t < t_1$. Now we evaluate the derivative of $x(t)$ at t_1 from the first equation of (19) to obtain:

$$\left. \frac{dx}{dt} \right|_{t=t_1} = -(1 - \beta(t_1))x(t_1) + 1 = 1 > 0.$$

Thus, we have $x(t_1 - \varepsilon) < 0$ for ε positive and small enough. This contradicts with the result obtained earlier that $x(t) > 0$ for $0 < t < t_1$. Therefore, we must have $x(t) > 0$ for $t > 0$. Similar arguments lead to the conclusion that $y(t)$ remains positive for $t > 0$ if its initial value is positive.

It is worthwhile to point out that the zero stresses $T_{11} = T_{22} = 0$ correspond to $x = y = 1$.

From now on, we shall confine our attention to the case where $x(0) > 0$ and $y(0) > 0$. To find the reachable set, we start with two lemmas. \square

Lemma 1. *The solutions $x(t)$ and $y(t)$ of the system (19) satisfy*

$$\frac{d(xy)}{dt} = x + y - 2xy. \quad (20)$$

Proof. The proof is straightforward. Using (19), we have

$$\frac{d(xy)}{dt} = \frac{dx}{dt}y + x\frac{dy}{dt} = -(1 - \beta(t))xy + y - (1 + \beta(t))xy + x = x + y - 2xy. \quad \square$$

Lemma 2. *The solutions $x(t)$ and $y(t)$ of the system (19) satisfy*

$$\frac{d \ln(y/x)}{dt} = -2\beta(t) + \frac{1}{y} - \frac{1}{x}. \quad (21)$$

Proof. Applying the chain rule and (19), we find

$$\frac{d \ln x}{dt} = \frac{1}{x} \frac{dx}{dt} = -[1 - \beta(t)] + \frac{1}{x}, \quad \frac{d \ln y}{dt} = \frac{1}{y} \frac{dy}{dt} = -[1 + \beta(t)] + \frac{1}{y}.$$

It follows immediately that

$$\frac{d \ln(y/x)}{dt} = \frac{d(\ln y - \ln x)}{dt} = -2\beta(t) + \frac{1}{y} - \frac{1}{x}.$$

Let us introduce two new unknown functions:

$$\xi = \sqrt{xy}, \quad \eta = \ln \sqrt{\frac{y}{x}}. \quad (22)$$

Using Eqs. (20) and (21), we find

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d\sqrt{xy}}{dt} &= \frac{1}{2\sqrt{xy}} \frac{d(xy)}{dt} = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{xy}} (x + y - 2xy) = \frac{1}{2} \left(\sqrt{\frac{x}{y}} + \sqrt{\frac{y}{x}} \right) - \sqrt{xy}, \\ \frac{d \ln \sqrt{y/x}}{dt} &= \frac{1}{2} \frac{d \ln(y/x)}{dt} = -\beta(t) + \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{1}{y} - \frac{1}{x} \right) = -\beta(t) - \frac{1}{\sqrt{xy}} \frac{1}{2} \left(\sqrt{\frac{y}{x}} - \sqrt{\frac{x}{y}} \right). \end{aligned}$$

In terms of ξ and η , the above ODE system becomes

$$\frac{d\xi}{dt} = \cosh \eta - \xi, \quad \frac{d\eta}{dt} = -\beta(t) - \frac{1}{\xi} \sinh \eta. \quad (23)$$

Note that the system (23) is nonlinear. Furthermore, the evolution of ξ is completely determined by (ξ, η) whereas the evolution of η depends on the control parameter $\beta(t)$. Of course, ξ is controlled by $\beta(t)$ via its effect on η . \square

Theorem 3. *For $t > 0$, the solution $\xi(t)$ of (23) satisfies*

$$\xi(t) - 1 \geq e^{-t}[\xi(0) - 1]$$

with equality possible only if $\eta(s) = 0$ throughout the interval $0 \leq s \leq t$.

Proof. From the first equation of (23), we obtain

$$\frac{d(\xi - 1)}{dt} + (\xi - 1) = \cosh \eta - 1$$

which gives

$$\frac{d[e^t(\xi - 1)]}{dt} = e^t(\cosh \eta - 1).$$

Integration from 0 to t yields

$$\xi(t) - 1 = e^{-t}[\xi(0) - 1] + e^{-t} \int_0^t e^s [\cosh \eta(s) - 1] ds.$$

Since $\cosh \eta(s) \geq 1$, it follows that

$$\xi(t) - 1 \geq e^{-t}[\xi(0) - 1] \quad \text{for } t > 0.$$

The equality holds only when $\cosh \eta(s) = 1$ for $0 \leq s \leq t$, which is equivalent to $\eta(s) = 0$ for $0 \leq s \leq t$. This completes the proof of [Theorem 3](#).

Let $(\xi_0, \eta_0) = (\xi(0), \eta(0))$ denote the initial condition and let (ξ_f, η_f) denote the state we would like to reach at time t_f . The reachable set at time t_f will be described by the following theorem. \square

Theorem 4.

- (1) If $\xi_f - 1 < e^{-t_f}(\xi_0 - 1)$, then (ξ_f, η_f) is not reachable at time t_f .
- (2) If $\xi_f - 1 = e^{-t_f}(\xi_0 - 1)$, then (ξ_f, η_f) is reachable at time t_f if and only if $\eta_0 = \eta_f = 0$.
- (3) If $\xi_f - 1 > e^{-t_f}(\xi_0 - 1)$, then (ξ_f, η_f) is reachable at time t_f .

Proof.

- (1) The proof follows directly from [Theorem 2](#).
- (2) If (ξ_f, η_f) is reachable at time t_f and $\xi_f - 1 = e^{-t_f}(\xi_0 - 1)$, then [Theorem 2](#) implies that $\eta(s) = 0$ for $0 \leq s \leq t$. Consequently, we have $\eta(0) = \eta(t_f) = 0$. That is, $\eta_0 = \eta_f = 0$.
On the other hand, if $\eta_0 = \eta_f = 0$, we select $\beta(t) = 0$ to keep $\eta(t) = 0$. This leads to $\xi(t) - 1 = e^{-t}(\xi_0 - 1)$ and thereby $\xi(t_f) = \xi_f$. Thus, (ξ_f, η_f) is reachable at time t_f .
- (3) The proof of (3) needs a lemma. \square

Lemma 3. Consider solving the ODE system (23) forward in time. Let us select $\beta(t)$ to change η linearly in time from $\eta = q_1$ at $t = 0$ to $\eta = q_2$ at $t = \Delta t$. Specifically, we enforce $d\eta/dt = (q_2 - q_1)/\Delta t$ by selecting

$$\beta(t) = -\frac{1}{\xi(t)} \sinh \eta(t) - \frac{q_2 - q_1}{\Delta t}.$$

For this choice of $\beta(t)$, it is true that

$$e^{-\Delta t}[\xi(0) - 1] + (1 - e^{-\Delta t})(\cosh q_{\min} - 1) \leq \xi(\Delta t) - 1 \leq e^{-\Delta t}[\xi(0) - 1] + (\cosh q_{\max} - 1)\Delta t,$$

where

$$q_{\min} = \inf\{|q| | q \text{ is between } q_1 \text{ and } q_2\}, \quad q_{\max} = \sup\{|q| | q \text{ is between } q_1 \text{ and } q_2\}.$$

For the proof of this lemma, we integrate the first equation of (23) to obtain

$$\xi(\Delta t) - 1 = e^{-\Delta t}[\xi(0) - 1] + e^{-\Delta t} \int_0^{\Delta t} e^s [\cosh \eta(s) - 1] ds.$$

Since $q_{\min} \leq |\eta(t)| \leq q_{\max}$ for $0 \leq t \leq \Delta t$, we get $\cosh q_{\min} \leq \cosh \eta(s) \leq \cosh q_{\max}$. Thus, it follows that

$$e^{-\Delta t}[\xi(0) - 1] + (1 - e^{-\Delta t})(\cosh q_{\min} - 1) \leq \xi(\Delta t) - 1 \leq e^{-\Delta t}[\xi(0) - 1] + (\cosh q_{\max} - 1)\Delta t.$$

Now we turn our attention to the proof of part (3). We first select $\beta(t)$ to change η linearly in time from $\eta = \eta_0$ at $t = 0$ to $\eta = q$ at $t = \Delta t$. Then we choose $\beta(t)$ to keep η at $\eta = q$ from $t = \Delta t$ to $t = t_f - \Delta t$. Finally, we select $\beta(t)$ to change η linearly in time from $\eta = q$ at $t = t_f - \Delta t$ to $\eta = \eta_f$ at $t = t_f$. However, the condition $\xi(t_f) = \xi_f$ will not be automatically satisfied. Let us consider how to choose Δt and q to make $\xi(t_f) = \xi_f$.

For the special case of $q = 0$, we look at the upper bound on $\xi(t_f)$. Applying [Lemma 3](#) for each of the three time sub-intervals $[0, \Delta t]$, $[\Delta t, t_f - \Delta t]$ and $[t_f - \Delta t, t_f]$, we have

$$\xi(\Delta t) - 1 \leq e^{-\Delta t}(\xi_0 - 1) + (\cosh \eta_0 - 1)\Delta t, \quad \xi(t_f - \Delta t) - 1 = e^{-(t_f - 2\Delta t)}[\xi(\Delta t) - 1],$$

$$\xi(t_f) - 1 \leq e^{-\Delta t}[\xi(t_f - \Delta t) - 1] + (\cosh \eta_f - 1)\Delta t.$$

Combining these results, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \xi(t_f) - 1 &\leq e^{-\Delta t}[\xi(t_f - \Delta t) - 1] + (\cosh \eta_f - 1)\Delta t \leq e^{-(t_f - \Delta t)}[\xi(\Delta t) - 1] + (\cosh \eta_f - 1)\Delta t \leq e^{-t_f}(\xi_0 - 1) \\ &\quad + (\cosh \eta_0 - 1)\Delta t + (\cosh \eta_f - 1)\Delta t. \end{aligned}$$

Recall that in part (3) we assume $\xi_f - 1 > e^{-t_f}(\xi_0 - 1)$. So we can select Δt small enough such that

$$\xi(t_f) - 1 < \xi_f - 1 \quad \text{for } q = 0. \quad (24)$$

Once such a Δt is found, we fix it. For the general case, we look at the lower bound on $\xi(t_f)$. Applying Lemma 3 for each of the three time sub-intervals $[0, \Delta t]$, $[\Delta t, t_f - \Delta t]$ and $[t_f - \Delta t, t_f]$, we get

$$\begin{aligned} \xi(\Delta t) - 1 &\geq e^{-\Delta t}(\xi_0 - 1), \quad \xi(t_f - \Delta t) - 1 \geq e^{-(t_f - 2\Delta t)}[\xi(\Delta t) - 1] + [1 - e^{-(t_f - 2\Delta t)}](\cosh q - 1), \\ \xi(t_f) - 1 &\geq e^{-\Delta t}[\xi(t_f - \Delta t) - 1]. \end{aligned}$$

Putting all these results together yields

$$\begin{aligned} \xi(t_f) - 1 &\geq e^{-\Delta t}[\xi(t_f - \Delta t) - 1] \geq e^{-(t_f - \Delta t)}[\xi(\Delta t) - 1] + e^{-\Delta t}[1 - e^{-(t_f - 2\Delta t)}](\cosh q - 1) \\ &\geq e^{-t_f}(\xi_0 - 1) + e^{-\Delta t}[1 - e^{-(t_f - 2\Delta t)}](\cosh q - 1). \end{aligned}$$

Let us select q large enough such that

$$\xi(t_f) - 1 > \xi_f - 1 \quad \text{for } q \text{ sufficiently large.} \quad (25)$$

Since $\xi(t_f)$ is continuous in q , it follows from (24) and (25) that we can find a value of q such that $\xi(t_f) = \xi_f$. This concludes the proof of Theorem 4.

In summary, the reachable set is $R + R_0$ where R and R_0 in the (ξ, η) plane are

$$R = \{(\xi_f, \eta_f) | \xi_f - 1 > e^{-t_f}(\xi_0 - 1)\}, \quad R_0 = \{(\xi_f, \eta_f) | \xi_f - 1 = e^{-t_f}(\xi_0 - 1) \text{ and } \eta_f = \eta_0 = 0\}.$$

In the (x, y) plane, R and R_0 are given by

$$R = \{(x_f, y_f) | \sqrt{x_f y_f} - 1 > e^{-t_f}(\sqrt{x_0 y_0} - 1)\}, \quad R_0 = \{(x_f, y_f) | \sqrt{x_f y_f} - 1 = e^{-t_f}(\sqrt{x_0 y_0} - 1) \text{ and } \frac{y_f}{x_f} = \frac{y_0}{x_0} = 1\}.$$

In terms of (T_{11}, T_{22}) and the original time before scaling, R and R_0 have the expressions:

$$\begin{aligned} R &= \left\{ (T_{11}(t_f), T_{22}(t_f)) \left| \sqrt{\left(\frac{T_{11}(t_f)}{\mu} + 1\right) \left(\frac{T_{22}(t_f)}{\mu} + 1\right)} - 1 > e^{-\lambda t_f} \left[\sqrt{\left(\frac{T_{11}(0)}{\mu} + 1\right) \left(\frac{T_{22}(0)}{\mu} + 1\right)} - 1 \right] \right\}, \\ R_0 &= \left\{ (T_{11}(t_f), T_{22}(t_f)) \left| \sqrt{\left(\frac{T_{11}(t_f)}{\mu} + 1\right) \left(\frac{T_{22}(t_f)}{\mu} + 1\right)} - 1 = e^{-\lambda t_f} \left[\sqrt{\left(\frac{T_{11}(0)}{\mu} + 1\right) \left(\frac{T_{22}(0)}{\mu} + 1\right)} - 1 \right] \right. \right. \\ &\quad \left. \left. \text{and } T_{11}(0) = T_{22}(0), T_{11}(t_f) = T_{22}(t_f) \right\}. \end{aligned}$$

4.2. Shear flow

For a shear flow with rate $\dot{\gamma}(t)$, the velocity is

$$\mathbf{v} = (\dot{\gamma}(t)y, 0). \quad (26)$$

The rate-of-strain tensor becomes

$$\mathbf{D} = \frac{1}{2}[\nabla \mathbf{v} + (\nabla \mathbf{v})^T] = \frac{\dot{\gamma}(t)}{2} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}. \quad (27)$$

The UCM model (3) becomes

$$\dot{T}_{11} - 2\dot{\gamma}(t)T_{12} + \lambda T_{11} = 0, \quad \dot{T}_{12} - \dot{\gamma}(t)T_{22} + \lambda T_{12} = \mu \dot{\gamma}(t), \quad \dot{T}_{22} + \lambda T_{22} = 0. \quad (28)$$

Then $T_{22}(t) = T_{22}(0) \exp(-\lambda t)$ so the system is not weakly controllable. We consider the subsystem where $T_{22} = 0$:

$$\dot{T}_{11} - 2\dot{\gamma}(t)T_{12} + \lambda T_{11} = 0, \quad \dot{T}_{12} + \lambda T_{12} = \mu\dot{\gamma}(t). \quad (29)$$

The system (29) can be expressed as

$$\frac{d\vec{x}}{dt} = \vec{f}(\vec{x}) + \vec{g}(\vec{x})u, \quad (30)$$

$$\text{where } \vec{x} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} T_{11} \\ T_{12} \end{bmatrix}, \quad u = \dot{\gamma}(t), \quad \vec{f}(\vec{x}) = \begin{bmatrix} -\lambda x_1 \\ -\lambda x_2 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \vec{g}(\vec{x}) = \begin{bmatrix} 2x_2 \\ \mu \end{bmatrix}. \quad (31)$$

The Lie bracket is

$$[\vec{f}, \vec{g}] = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ \lambda\mu \end{bmatrix}. \quad (32)$$

So

$$\det[\vec{g}, [\vec{f}, \vec{g}]] = 2\lambda\mu x_2. \quad (33)$$

Therefore, the subsystem (29) of the UCM model under shear flow satisfies the CRC when the shear stress is nonzero, i.e. $x_2 \neq 0$ (or $T_{12} \neq 0$) and hence is weakly controllable.

By manipulating the system (29), it was found that the set of reachable states of (29) is given precisely by the following inequality [6]:

$$\mu T_{11}(t_f) - T_{12}(t_f)^2 \geq e^{-\lambda t_f} [\mu T_{11}(0) - T_{12}(0)^2]. \quad (34)$$

Note that the condition (34) is stronger than our result in this special case because it gives global reachable sets whereas ours is a condition on local controllability only.

4.3. General planar linear flow

Now we consider a general planar linear flow with velocity

$$\mathbf{v} = (p_1(t)x + p_2(t)y, p_3(t)x - p_1(t)y). \quad (35)$$

This general case is different from the previous ones because an invariant subspace may not exist. As a result, we have to deal with the full system model rather than a reduced control system. The rate-of-strain tensor is

$$\mathbf{D} = \frac{1}{2}[\nabla \mathbf{v} + (\nabla \mathbf{v})^T] = \begin{bmatrix} p_1(t) & \frac{p_2(t) + p_3(t)}{2} \\ \frac{p_2(t) + p_3(t)}{2} & -p_1(t) \end{bmatrix}. \quad (36)$$

Then the UCM model (3) becomes

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{T}_{11} - 2(p_1(t)T_{11} + p_2(t)T_{12}) + \lambda T_{11} &= 2\mu p_1(t), & \dot{T}_{12} - (p_2(t)T_{22} + p_3(t)T_{11}) + \lambda T_{12} &= \mu(p_2(t) + p_3(t)), \\ \dot{T}_{22} - 2(p_3(t)T_{12} - p_1(t)T_{22}) + \lambda T_{22} &= -2\mu p_1(t). \end{aligned} \quad (37)$$

The system (37) can be cast into

$$\frac{d\vec{x}}{dt} = \vec{f}(\vec{x}) + \vec{g}_1(\vec{x})u_1 + \vec{g}_2(\vec{x})u_2 + \vec{g}_3(\vec{x})u_3, \quad (38)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{where } \vec{x} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix} &= \begin{bmatrix} T_{11} \\ T_{12} \\ T_{22} \end{bmatrix}, \quad u_1 = p_1(t), \quad u_2 = p_2(t), \quad u_3 = p_3(t), \quad \vec{f}(\vec{x}) = \begin{bmatrix} -\lambda x_1 \\ -\lambda x_2 \\ -\lambda x_3 \end{bmatrix}, \\ \vec{g}_1(\vec{x}) &= \begin{bmatrix} 2\mu + 2x_1 \\ 0 \\ -2\mu - 2x_3 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \vec{g}_2(\vec{x}) = \begin{bmatrix} 2x_2 \\ \mu + x_3 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \vec{g}_3(\vec{x}) = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ \mu + x_1 \\ 2x_2 \end{bmatrix}. \end{aligned} \quad (39)$$

It is practical to consider the situations where only one $p_i(t)$ is a control parameter and the other two are constants. Therefore, we consider three cases.

Case 1. $p_1(t)$ is the only control parameter and other parameters are constants.

The system (37) can be rewritten as

$$\frac{d\vec{x}}{dt} = \vec{f}_1(\vec{x}) + \vec{g}_1(\vec{x})u_1, \quad (40)$$

where \vec{x} , \vec{g}_1 , u_1 are defined in (39) and

$$\vec{f}_1(\vec{x}) = \begin{bmatrix} -\lambda x_1 + 2x_2 p_2 \\ -\lambda x_2 + (\mu + x_3)p_2 + (\mu + x_1)p_3 \\ -\lambda x_3 + 2x_2 p_3 \end{bmatrix}. \quad (41)$$

After some calculations we obtain

$$[\vec{g}_1, [\vec{f}_1, \vec{g}_1], [\vec{f}_1, [\vec{f}_1, \vec{g}_1]]] = \begin{bmatrix} 2\mu + 2x_1 & 4x_2 p_2 + 2\lambda\mu & 8p_2 p_3(\mu + x_1) + 2\lambda^2\mu \\ 0 & -2p_3(\mu + x_1) + 2p_2(\mu + x_3) & 4\lambda\mu(p_2 - p_3) \\ -2\mu - 2x_3 & -4x_2 p_3 - 2\lambda\mu & -8p_2 p_3(\mu + x_3) - 2\lambda^2\mu \end{bmatrix}, \quad (42)$$

and

$$\det([\vec{g}_1, [\vec{f}_1, \vec{g}_1], [\vec{f}_1, [\vec{f}_1, \vec{g}_1]]]) = 8\lambda^2\mu(x_1 - x_3)(x_1 p_3 - x_3 p_2) + 8\lambda\mu(p_2 - p_3) \\ \times [\lambda\mu(x_1 - x_3) - 4\mu x_2(p_2 - p_3) + 4x_2(x_1 p_3 - x_3 p_2)]. \quad (43)$$

- If $p_2 = p_3$, then the determinant (43) is not zero if $x_1 \neq x_3$, which implies that the CRC is satisfied and the UCM system (37) is weakly controllable there.
- If $p_2 \neq p_3$, we set the determinant (43) to zero and solve for x_2 in terms of x_1 and x_3 . After some algebras, we find that

$$x_2 = \frac{\lambda(x_1 - x_3)[\mu(p_2 - p_3) + (x_1 p_3 - x_3 p_2)]}{4(p_2 - p_3)[\mu(p_2 - p_3) - (x_1 p_3 - x_3 p_2)]} \quad (44)$$

provided that $\mu(p_2 - p_3) - (x_1 p_3 - x_3 p_2) \neq 0$. In other words, if $p_2 \neq p_3$ and $\mu(p_2 - p_3) - (x_1 p_3 - x_3 p_2) \neq 0$, then the determinant (43) does not vanish if x_2 does not lie on the surface described by (44). As a result, the system (37) satisfies the CRC and is weakly controllable there.

- If $p_2 \neq p_3$ and $\mu(p_2 - p_3) - (x_1 p_3 - x_3 p_2) = 0$, then the determinant (43) simplifies to

$$\det([\vec{g}_1, [\vec{f}_1, \vec{g}_1], [\vec{f}_1, [\vec{f}_1, \vec{g}_1]]]) = 16\lambda^2\mu^2(p_2 - p_3)(x_1 - x_3). \quad (45)$$

So the system (37) satisfies the CRC and is weakly controllable if $x_1 \neq x_3$.

To summarize, we consider the state-parameter space:

$$R^5 = \{(x_1, x_2, x_3, p_2, p_3) | x_i, p_j \in R\}.$$

Define some surfaces in R^5 by

$$S_1 = \{(x_1, x_2, x_3, p_2, p_3) | p_2 = p_3\}, \quad S_2 = \{(x_1, x_2, x_3, p_2, p_3) | \mu(p_2 - p_3) - (x_1 p_3 - x_3 p_2) = 0\}, \\ S_3 = \left\{ (x_1, x_2, x_3, p_2, p_3) | x_2 = \frac{\lambda(x_1 - x_3)[\mu(p_2 - p_3) + (x_1 p_3 - x_3 p_2)]}{4(p_2 - p_3)[\mu(p_2 - p_3) - (x_1 p_3 - x_3 p_2)]} \right\}, \quad S_4 = \{(x_1, x_2, x_3, p_2, p_3) | x_1 = x_3\}. \quad (46)$$

Then in the state-parameter space, R^5 , the system is weakly controllable in $R^5 \setminus \{S_1 \cup S_2 \cup S_3\}$. In S_1 , the system is weakly controllable in $S_1 \setminus S_4$; In S_2 , the system is weakly controllable in $S_2 \setminus \{S_1 \cup S_4\}$.

Case 2. $p_2(t)$ is the only control parameter.

The system (37) can be rewritten as

$$\frac{d\vec{x}}{dt} = \vec{f}_2(\vec{x}) + \vec{g}_2(\vec{x})u_2, \quad (47)$$

where \vec{x} , \vec{g}_2 , u_2 are defined in (39) and

$$\vec{f}_2(\vec{x}) = \begin{bmatrix} -\lambda x_1 + 2(\mu + x_1)p_1 \\ -\lambda x_2 + (\mu + x_1)p_3 \\ -\lambda x_3 - 2(\mu + x_3)p_1 + 2x_2p_3 \end{bmatrix}. \quad (48)$$

Then we have

$$[\vec{g}_2, [\vec{f}_2, \vec{g}_2], [\vec{f}_2, [\vec{f}_2, \vec{g}_2]]] = \begin{bmatrix} 2x_2 & 2(x_1 + \mu)p_3 - 4x_2p_1 & -4p_1p_3(\mu + x_1) + 2\lambda\mu p_3 + 8x_2p_1^2 \\ \mu + x_3 & -2p_1(\mu + x_3) + \lambda\mu & 4p_1^2(\mu + x_3) - 2p_3^2(\mu + x_1) + \lambda\mu(\lambda - 2p_1) \\ 0 & -2p_3(\mu + x_3) & 4p_1p_3(\mu + x_3) - 4p_3(x_2p_3 + \lambda\mu) \end{bmatrix}, \quad (49)$$

and

$$\det([\vec{g}_2, [\vec{f}_2, \vec{g}_2], [\vec{f}_2, [\vec{f}_2, \vec{g}_2]]]) = 4\lambda\mu p_3 [p_3(\mu^2 - x_3^2) + 2p_3x_1(\mu + x_3) + \lambda x_2(x_3 - \mu) - 2p_3x_2^2]. \quad (50)$$

If we set the determinant (50) to be zero and solve x_1 in terms of x_2 and x_3 , we find that

$$x_1 = \frac{p_3(2x_2^2 + x_3^2 - \mu^2) - \lambda x_2(x_3 - \mu)}{2p_3(\mu + x_3)} \quad (51)$$

provided that the denominator $\mu + x_3 \neq 0$. From this, we have the following conclusions.

- If $\mu + x_3 \neq 0$ and x does not lie on the surface given by (51), then the determinant (50) is not zero, the CRC holds and the system (37) is weakly controllable.
- If $\mu + x_3 = 0$, i.e. $x_3 = -\mu$, then the determinant is reduced to

$$\det([\vec{g}_2, [\vec{f}_2, \vec{g}_2], [\vec{f}_2, [\vec{f}_2, \vec{g}_2]]]) = -8\lambda\mu p_3 x_2(\lambda\mu + p_3 x_2). \quad (52)$$

Hence the determinant does not vanish if $x_2 \neq 0$ and $x_2 \neq -\lambda\mu/p_3$. In this case, the CRC holds and the system (37) is weakly controllable.

Let us summarize our results geometrically. In $R^5 = \{(x_1, x_2, x_3, p_1, p_3) | x_i, p_j \in R\}$, define three surfaces given by

$$S_5 = \{(x_1, x_2, x_3, p_1, p_3) | \mu + x_3 = 0\}, \quad S_6 = \left\{ (x_1, x_2, x_3, p_1, p_3) | x_1 = \frac{p_3(2x_2^2 + x_3^2 - \mu^2) - \lambda x_2(x_3 - \mu)}{2p_3(\mu + x_3)} \right\},$$

$$S_7 = \{(x_1, x_2, x_3, p_1, p_3) | x_2 = 0 \text{ or } \lambda\mu + p_3 x_2 = 0\}. \quad (53)$$

Then the system is weakly controllable at all points in $R^5 \setminus \{S_5 \cup S_6\}$. In S_5 , the system is weakly controllable at all points in $S_5 \setminus S_7$.

Case 3. $p_3(t)$ is the only control parameter.

The system (37) can be rewritten as

$$\frac{d\vec{x}}{dt} = \vec{f}_3(\vec{x}) + \vec{g}_3(\vec{x})u_3, \quad (54)$$

where \vec{x} , \vec{g}_3 , u_3 are defined in (39) and

$$\vec{f}_3(\vec{x}) = \begin{bmatrix} -\lambda x_1 + 2(\mu + x_1)p_1 + 2x_2p_2 \\ -\lambda x_2 + (\mu + x_3)p_2 \\ -\lambda x_3 - 2(\mu + x_3)p_1 \end{bmatrix}. \quad (55)$$

Then we have

$$[\vec{g}_3, [\vec{f}_3, \vec{g}_3], [\vec{f}_3, [\vec{f}_3, \vec{g}_3]]] = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -2(x_1 + \mu)p_2 & -4p_1p_2(\mu + x_1) - 4p_2(x_2p_2 + \lambda\mu) \\ \mu + x_1 & 2p_1(\mu + x_1) + \lambda\mu & 4p_1^2(\mu + x_1) - 2p_2^2(\mu + x_3) + \lambda\mu(\lambda + 2p_1) \\ 2x_2 & 2p_2(\mu + x_3) + 4x_2p_1 & 4p_1p_2(\mu + x_3) + 8p_1^2x_2 + 2p_2\lambda\mu \end{bmatrix}, \quad (56)$$

and

$$\det([\vec{g}_3, [\vec{f}_3, \vec{g}_3], [\vec{f}_3, [\vec{f}_3, \vec{g}_3]]]) = -4\lambda\mu p_2 [p_2(\mu^2 - x_1^2) + 2p_2x_3(\mu + x_1) + \lambda x_2(x_1 - \mu) - 2p_2x_2^2]. \quad (57)$$

As before, we set the determinant (57) to be zero and solve x_3 in terms of x_1 and x_2 and obtain

$$x_3 = \frac{p_2(\mu - x_1^2) + \lambda x_2(x_1 - \mu) - 2p_2x_2^2}{-2p_2(\mu + x_1)}, \quad (58)$$

if $\mu + x_1 \neq 0$. Several observations immediately follow:

- $\mu + x_1 \neq 0$ and x_3 does not lie on the surface (58), then the determinant (57) is nonzero, the CRC holds and the system (37) is weakly controllable.
- If $\mu + x_1 = 0$, i.e. $x_1 = -\mu$, then the determinant (57) becomes

$$\det([\vec{g}_3, [\vec{f}_3, \vec{g}_3], [\vec{f}_3, [\vec{f}_3, \vec{g}_3]]]) = 8\lambda\mu p_2 x_2 (\lambda\mu + p_2 x_2), \quad (59)$$

which is not zero when $x_2 \neq 0$ and $x_2 \neq -\lambda\mu/p_2$. Then the CRC holds and the system (37) is weakly controllable.

To summarize, consider three surfaces:

$$S_8 = \{(x_1, x_2, x_3, p_1, p_2) | \mu + x_1 = 0\}, \quad S_9 = \left\{ (x_1, x_2, x_3, p_1, p_2) | x_3 = \frac{p_2(\mu - x_1^2) + \lambda x_2(x_1 - \mu) - 2p_2x_2^2}{-2p_2(\mu + x_1)} \right\},$$

$$S_{10} = \{(x_1, x_2, x_3, p_1, p_2) | x_2 = 0 \text{ or } \lambda\mu + p_2x_2 = 0\} \quad (60)$$

in the state-parameter space $R^5 = \{(x_1, x_2, x_3, p_1, p_2)\}$. Then the system is weakly controllable at all points in $R^5 \setminus \{S_8 \cup S_9\}$. In S_8 , the system is weakly controllable at all points in $S_8 \setminus S_{10}$.

5. Some remarks on 3D models

It should be pointed out that we study the 2D fluids mainly due to their mathematical convenience. In fact, if we assume that the stress tensor is of the following form

$$\mathbf{T} = \begin{bmatrix} T_{11} & T_{12} & 0 \\ T_{12} & T_{22} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix},$$

then the 3D UCM model is reduced to the 2D model considered in this paper. If one consider the full 3D UCM model coupled with a three-dimensional flow, then the analysis will be much more complicated. As an example, consider the 3D UCM model in the presence of a 3D elongational flow where the velocity field is described by $\mathbf{v} = (-\dot{\gamma}(t)(x/2) - \dot{\gamma}(t)(y/2), \dot{\gamma}(t)z)$ and the UCM model (3) can be expressed as

$$\frac{d\vec{x}}{dt} = \vec{f}(\vec{x}) + \vec{g}(\vec{x})u, \quad (61)$$

where

$$\vec{x} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \\ x_4 \\ x_5 \\ x_6 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} T_{11} \\ T_{12} \\ T_{13} \\ T_{22} \\ T_{23} \\ T_{33} \end{bmatrix}, \quad u = \dot{\gamma}(t), \quad \vec{f}(\vec{x}) = -\lambda\vec{x}, \quad \vec{g}(\vec{x}) = \begin{bmatrix} \mu - x_1 \\ -x_2 \\ \frac{1}{2}x_3 \\ -\mu - x_4 \\ \frac{1}{2}x_5 \\ 2\mu + 2x_6 \end{bmatrix}. \quad (62)$$

The Lie brackets are

$$[\vec{f}, \vec{g}] = \begin{bmatrix} -\lambda\mu \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ \lambda\mu \\ 0 \\ 2\lambda\mu \end{bmatrix} \equiv \vec{g}_1, \quad [\vec{f}, \vec{g}_1] = \lambda\vec{g} \equiv \vec{g}_2, \dots \quad (63)$$

It is obvious that the determinant of the Lie brackets vanishes and one cannot conclude weak controllability in 3D case. However, it is always possible to find control invariant submanifolds in the state space that are weakly controllable. The characterization of such invariant submanifold needs geometric analysis [2] which is beyond the scope of this paper.

Generally speaking, for 3D models coupled with 3D flows, the controllability becomes more subtle and complicated. One needs to use geometric approach to identify controllable submanifolds.

6. Concluding remarks

In this paper we have applied the controllability rank condition to the vector fields in the upper convected Maxwell model to study the controllability of viscoelastic fluids driven by various homogeneous flow fields. In our control system, the state variable is the stress and the available control is related to different flow rate. For the upper convected Maxwell model coupled with different flow fields, we find that

- The UCM model under extensional flow is weakly controllable on a stable invariant submanifold when the first normal stress difference T_{11} does not equal to the second normal stress difference T_{22} . The reachable set is also derived.
- The UCM model under shear flow is weakly controllable on a stable invariant submanifold when the shear stress T_{12} is nonzero.
- The UCM model under general planar linear flow is weakly controllable in some subsets of the state space. The constraints that define these subsets are characterized explicitly by equations of the stress components.

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